THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Government of India does not provide any special concessional loans to educated unemployed youths of hilly region of Uttaranchal of Uttar Pradesh for starting hotels etc. at tourist spots. However, the Department of Tourism has a scheme of giving interest subsidy to those entrepreneurs who wish to invest in hotel projects of one, two and three star approved projects at the rate of 3% discount on interest on loans taken from selected financial institutions. In the travel circuit of Rishikesh-Narendernagar-Gangotri-Badrinath the interest subsidy is higher i.e. 5%. The Government also gives income tax benefit to investment in hotels located in hilly areas.

[English]

Modernisation of Air Traffic Services

6404. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level team of officials of the US-Air-Service Company, Raytheon, led by its Vice-President (Transport) Mike Hoeffler, recently visited India for discussion on the Airport project as part of modernisation of Air-traffic services at Bombay and Delhi (MATSBD);

(b) if so, the details of MATSBD project indicating various stages of the project; and

(c) the outcome of the talks with the team?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under this modernisation project, the complete air traffic control at Delhi and Mumbai airports is being automated with the provision of Flight Data Processing System, Radar Data Processing System, Automatic Self Briefing System and Voice Control Communication System. In addition, the state-of-the-art Radars, including Airport Surviellance Radar, Air Route Surveillance Radar, Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radar with Mode-S capability and Airfield Surface Detection Equipment are also provided. Site acceptance tests of these systems are in progress in a phased manner. The test on integrated system of Air Traffic Services is expected to be completed by May, 1997 at Delhi and June, 1997 at Mumbai. The total cost of the project is Rs. 423.89 crores, and includes a foreign exchange components of Rs. 266.48 crores.

(c) In the talks, the bottlenecks for the smooth implementation of the project were identified and milestones fixed for the speedy implementation of the project so that there are no further slippages in the project schedule.

Area of Hyderabad-Secunderabad for Local Dialing

6405. SHRI P.V. RAJESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the area within which local telephone calls can be done in Hyderbad and Secunderabad in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government proposes to extend area limits for local telephone calls in Hyderabad and Secunderabad as is the system in Delhi;

(c) if so, the names of places to which local telephone calls facility is proposed to be provided in Hyderabad and Secunderabad alongwith the time by which the facility is likely to be made available; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not extending the area limits for local telephone calls in Hyderabad and Secunderabad?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Local Call facility is available to the telephone subscribers situated within the area under the jurisdiction of Municipal Corporation of the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad and Secunderabad Cantonment Board.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) As per existing policy, Local Area of a multi-exchange system covers the area under the jurisdiction of Municipal Committee/Corporation. Metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai have been given special dispensation.

[Translation]

Occupation of Seats of Coolies

6406. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that coolies occupy seats in the unreserved coaches at railway stations and extort money from passengers in exchange of seats;

(b) if so, the railway stations from which such complaints have been received and the number of such complaints; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against those coolies involved in such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Some such instances have come to notice.

(b) During January to December, 1996, 33 complaints were received against the licensed porters of Mumbai CST, Dadar Terminus, Kalyan, Kurla Terminus, Pune, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, New Jalpaiguri, Chennai Central, Howrah, Mumbai Central and Bandra Terminus.

(c) Regular checks are conducted by the railways to curb such activities by the coolies. Licence badges of licensed porters found indulging in malpractices were suspended/terminated wherever the charges were substantiated.